

# National and World News

## FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

### McCain touts Joe in Fla. campaign

MIAMI (MCT) — As he pounds Barack Obama for telling America's most famous handyman that he wants to "spread the wealth around," John McCain is improving his standing in Florida, with a Wednesday poll showing the Republican presidential candidate with a 1 percentage-point lead.

"He's decided to completely make up, just fabricate this notion that I've been attacking Joe the Plumber," Obama said Tuesday in Miami. "I've got nothing but love for Joe the Plumber; that's why I want to give him a tax cut."

### Bachmann recalls Obama statement

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (MCT) — Appealing to business leaders and party faithful for support, Rep. Michele Bachmann retreated Tuesday from her televised claim that Barack Obama "may have anti-American views," while also asserting that "a trap was laid" in order to prompt her remark.

Bachmann, a Republican, defended herself during campaign stops, blaming Chris Matthews, the host of MSNBC's "Hardball," for setting the stage for her controversial comments about Obama.

### Afghanistan seeks peace talks with Taliban; representatives deny plans

KABUL, Afghanistan (MCT) — As the crisis in Afghanistan deepens and Western officials warn that the battle against insurgents cannot be won militarily, the Afghan government is pushing hard for peace talks with Taliban-led militants.

The Taliban denies any plans to talk, but if they happen, the meetings would mark the first time that Taliban representatives have sat down to negotiate with the U.S.-backed Afghan government since being driven from power in late 2001.

Negotiations would mean

a significant change in the approach toward the Afghan insurgency, which has gained strength in the past year.

The idea of peace talks has been welcomed by some Western officials, but the effort is controversial, considering that the Taliban's objective is a strict Islamic regime like the one they had before. Taliban spokesmen say that the insurgents do not want a power-sharing agreement with the current U.S.-backed government and that they will negotiate only once international forces leave Afghanistan.

### Gunshot reports on campus false

Western Kentucky University issued an e-mail alert urging students to seek shelter around 12:45 p.m. Central time Wednesday following reports of armed persons in a university-affiliated community college campus building nearby. Shortly after, police received unconfirmed reports of gunshots near a residence hall.

Campus officials released a statement asserting that while no shots were fired, an altercation not involving weapons occurred and four suspects have been taken into custody. Individuals were told shortly after that they were free to move about the campus.

### Pakistan forced to ask IMF for funds

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan has sought an emergency bailout from the International Monetary Fund, a step forced on Islamabad after allies refused to come up with the cash needed to prevent the country from going bust.

The U.S., China and Saudi Arabia have all rebuffed Pakistan's money-raising requests, despite Islamabad telling its allies that it should be rewarded for its key role in the "War on Terror."

A deal is expected to provide \$5 billion or more for the coming year, with billions more for subsequent years.

## SAVINGS

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those savings — are a measure for how the nationwide downturn is affecting families.

Kittner said the organization offers many 529 options.

"Anecdotally, we have received more inquiries recently about more conservative funds," Kittner stated in an e-mail.

"However, there have also been other inquiries about some of the more aggressive funds from optimistic people who want to 'buy low and sell high.'"

Although the number of accounts increased by 50 percent from August 2007 to August 2008, there has been a marked

downturn in new accounts opened and the net worth of the state's plans, Kittner stated in the e-mail.

Assets dropped from \$423.6 million to \$397.1 million.

Florida offers a prepaid college plan that is much more popular than the state's 529 investment options, said Diane Hirth, director of marketing and communications for the Florida Prepaid College Board.

When families sign on, they agree to pay a fixed amount determined by the board. When their child goes to college, the plan pays the current cost for the student to go, insulating the families from tuition increases.

Although Hirth was unsure of

how the recession would affect participation in the prepaid plan, she emphasized its long-term growth over the last 20 years and the board's conservative investment strategy as evidence the plans will remain popular.

Hirth said that 88.5 percent of the money is in fixed-income assets, "making it a relatively safe place to put your money."

Regardless of what plan families choose, the key to successful college financing is an early start, Kittner said.

"The earlier you start saving the (more the) money's going to have a chance to grow."

Contact the State's National Editor at [stnidesk@unc.edu](mailto:stnidesk@unc.edu).

## ANTI-ABORTION

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tion, handing out information and speaking to students walking by.

"The shock value does nothing to cultivate any sort of better understanding from either side," said sophomore Casey Heermans, a member of Choice USA. "And it's offensive."

Heated debate aside, students stayed civil with the demonstrators.

"Every person that I talked to has at least shaken my hand and said, 'I enjoyed this conversation,'" Justice for All intern Maureen Barr said.

The display dominated the central part of campus. Instead of the detours that Carolina Students for Life promised in its proposal to Congress, there were only a few signs at the entrance to Polk Place

to warn students.

"We don't have a series of detour signs," said President Melanie Simpson. "We assume people know their campus well enough to find an alternate route."

The Justice for All display also included a free speech board, on which students could sound off on the demonstration, and poll tables with questions on abortion legislation and the organization's use of graphic images.

Despite the exhibit's largely negative reception, at least one student still praised the group.

"They're pretty ballsy," said Steven Dudick, a senior chemistry major. "They've got guts being out here."

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## SAFETY

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ly control who is in a public building, said Judith Panitch, director of library communications.

Despite the concerns, the Department of Public Safety has not identified graduate student safety as an individual problem apart from general campus security.

DPS spokesman Randy Young said he had not been notified of the new committee but supports any efforts to improve campus security.

"Anything that enhances the level of security on campus is something that we applaud and will work in tandem with," he said.

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## WILSON

FROM PAGE 1

the injury required a half-dozen stitches.

He needed surgery to repair a broken nose sustained on the basketball court during his senior year of high school.

In sixth grade, he was injured in a go-kart accident, and a pin was inserted into his pinkie finger to reconstruct it.

And at age 7, he was slammed off his bike by a Cadillac he said was traveling at 70 miles per hour.

But as bizarre and scarring as his injuries have been, Wilson has always found his way back to the gridiron — sometimes much more quickly than expected.

"I always bounce back," Wilson said. "Even after I got hit by the car, I stayed in the hospital overnight, I got the stitches out next week, and I was back playing football again."

"I guess God was watching over me. The only thing I had was a scar to show for it."

Even when healthy, Wilson still has recovery on his mind.

He's taken on a leadership role in the locker room since the Tar Heels let one slip away Saturday to the Cavaliers — their 14th straight

"He must be pretty tough. Maybe he's walking around, luckier than he thinks. He should go to Vegas."

BUTCH DAVIS, UNC COACH

loss in Charlottesville, Va.

"I've been through a lot, and I'm not worried about myself," Wilson said. "I'm trying to make sure everybody around me is OK, because if everybody around me is OK, I'm good."

"I find myself a lot, if a guy's had a bad practice or a bad game, I'm usually the one who goes up and talks to him."

UNC's ability to bounce back this weekend against No. 23 Boston College will have a big impact on both the Tar Heels' 2008 campaign and the ACC leaderboard.

For this to happen, they'll need continued contribution from Wilson between the lines, too. This season, he's racked up 21 tackles, a sack and a team-high six quarterback hurries.

A big reason for those numbers is that, for once, he's been consistently healthy — he's started every game since the beginning of the 2007 season.

"All defensive linemen get beat up during the course of games and the season and stuff, and he sucks it up and plays hard every week," UNC coach Butch Davis said.

"I didn't know anything about (the accidents), but obviously he must be pretty tough."

"Maybe he's walking around, luckier than he thinks. He should go to Vegas."

Perhaps all the healing Wilson has done was just practice for his future, as he said he wants to be a physical therapist.

Whatever he pursues — be it his exercise and sports science degree or ACC quarterbacks — he's likely to keep doing it with reckless abandon.

"My mom said she thought it'd kind of slow me down, the things that happened when I was smaller," Wilson said.

"But I just keep going."

Contact the Sports Editor at [sports@unc.edu](mailto:sports@unc.edu).

## TUITION

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my own tuition next year."

Increased tuition also will have a large effect on the University's ability to allocate resources to graduate students, said Stephen Milder, a history Ph.D. candidate.

"The department will raise the budget to pay for our tuition, which means they will pay us less for other things such as work," Milder said.

Jayaram also said he thinks the tuition increase would affect department budgets.

"The more financially secure a department is, the better graduate

"The more financially secure a department is, the better graduate students feel. They don't have to worry about funding."

SRINATH JAYARAM, PH.D. CANDIDATE IN THE COMMUNICATION STUDIES DEPARTMENT

students feel," he said. "They don't have to worry about funding, they can focus on their research, they can focus on their teaching."

The increase in tuition also is bound to affect graduate student enrollment, said Keith Lee, graduate and professional student federation secretary.

"If we increase tuition too much they're going to start look-

ing elsewhere," he said.

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

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